

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bradford H. Needham et al.

§ Group Art Unit: 2685

Serial No.: 09/243,701

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Examiner: T. Davis

Filed: February 2, 1999

For: Location-Based Vehicle  
Messaging System

§ Atty. Dkt. No.: INTL-0159-US  
§ **RECEIVED** (P6667)

OCT 09 2002

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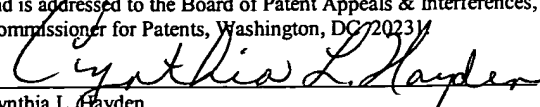
REPLY BRIEF

In response to the Examiner's Answer mailed September 10, 2002, the Applicants respond to the new issues raised by the Examiner.

It is not believed that the Examiner raised any new issues with respect to the rejection of claim 15.

With respect to the rejection of claim 22, the Examiner now relies, for the first time, on material in columns 5, 6, 9, and 10 of the cited Kondou reference.

Claim 22 calls for a processor that sorts received information based on appended position information and identifies that information when the vehicle is proximate to a location associated with the information. Thus, a system that merely displays information about a geographic area on a map does not display that information when the vehicle is proximate to a location associated with the information but, instead, simply displays it all the time.

Date of Deposit: <u>10-01-02</u>
I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.
 Cynthia L. Hayden

The Examiner miscomprehends the Kondou reference in suggesting that Kondou does identify the information when the vehicle is proximate to a particular location.

The claimed invention is advantageous because instead of displaying a map with all kinds of information on it and trying to sort through that information while driving, the computer sorts through the information and provides information when it is relevant – when the vehicle is proximate to the pertinent location.

The material at columns 9 and 10, cited by the Examiner in Kondou, is inapposite. For example in column 9, lines 32 and 33, it is stated that “information on the appropriate area is retrieved immediately in accordance with the user’s request.” Again, the system claimed is not a request based system, but rather automatically provides pertinent information when the vehicle is proximate to a location associated with the information.

Similarly, the material in column 10 relates to a system in which information on a plurality of areas is received beforehand in the form of compressed data from the information server 21 and stored on a memory card 19. See Kondou, column 10, lines 51-54. “The use of a method will be easily analogized in which information on a map and/or the positions of shops as the base which do not greatly change is stored in a compressed form in a storage medium such as a CD ROM.” Clearly this is contemplating a situation in which static information is merely displayed on a map. There is no sorting of received information based on appended position information or identification of that information when the vehicle is proximate to a location associated with the information.

Further, in column 10, lines 58-62 it is stated that “information on rapidly changing road situation and/or commodity prices is downloaded through communication lines from the remote information server and provided as multimedia information such as voice, text, and/or images.”

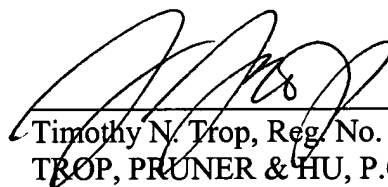
Again, information is just simply transmitted to all the users, not provided to a user when the user is proximate to the subject location and when the information is most relevant. Again, this requires the user to sort through a variety of textual or audible information and determine whether the information is pertinent at the present time. This is distracting to the vehicle driver and could be dangerous. In contrast with the claimed invention, the driver is presented with only that information that is pertinent based on proximity.

Since Kondou is not pertinent to the claimed invention, the rejection should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

10/1/02



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